

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph before paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

The present U.S. Patent application is related to the following U.S. Patent applications:

- 1) "PACKET PROCESSING USING SHARED RESOURCES," having an application number 10/728,646 XXX,XXX (P023), filed December 5 November _____, 2003; and
- 2) "BOUNDARY PROCESSING BETWEEN A SYNCHRONOUS NETWORK AND A PLESIOCHRONOUS NETWORK," having an application number 10/728,657 XXX,XXX (P025), filed December 5 November _____, 2003.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] **Figure 3** is a block diagram of one embodiment of a switching architecture having a protocol-independent switch fabric. The example of Figure 3 illustrates two processing resources; however, any number of processing resources can be supported. Further, the architecture of Figure 3 is illustrated with VT processing resources only. The processing resources can switch at levels other than the VT level and/or packet processing resources can also be coupled with the switch fabric. Various embodiments of packet processing are disclosed in "PACKET PROCESSING USING SHARED RESOURCES," having an application number 10/728,646 XXX,XXX, filed December 5 November _____, 2003, which is incorporated by reference herein.